



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 14, 2008

H.R. 3513 **Copper Salmon Wilderness Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on April 2, 2008*

H.R. 3513 would designate approximately 11,900 acres of land in the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon as the Copper Salmon Wilderness. The bill also would designate certain segments of the north and south forks of the Elk River in Oregon as wild or scenic rivers and approximately 1,700 acres of the Siskiyou National Forest as a potential wilderness area.

Assuming the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that discretionary costs would increase by less than \$1 million to implement the bill. Those funds would be used to survey and mark the wilderness area as well as remove existing culverts and roads.

In addition, because a small portion of the affected area has had an environmental assessment completed, timber harvesting could occur in this area during the next 10 years under current law. Because the bill would designate the land as wilderness, some of that timber harvesting would not occur, leading to a loss of offsetting receipts. According to the Forest Service, any such activities would likely be done through the use of stewardship contracts, a program that allows the Forest Service to use proceeds from such sales, without appropriation, for various purposes. Thus, while the bill would lead to a small loss of offsetting receipts (less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2018 period), those losses would be offset by a corresponding reduction in direct spending. On balance, CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no net impact on direct spending and would not affect revenues.

H.R. 3513 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 11, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2034, the Copper Salmon Wilderness Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 30, 2008. H.R. 3513 would designate approximately 1,700 fewer acres of forest land in the Siskiyou National Forest as the Copper Salmon Wilderness than S. 2034, and would designate that land as potential wilderness for inclusion into the wilderness at a

later date. The other provisions of the bill are similar, and the cost estimates for the bills are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Tyler Kruzich. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.